

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14873

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SUBJECT: REACTION OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS TO CURRENT CRITICISM

1. AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS DO NOT SEEM UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT SADAT'S
CRITICISM OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HARASSED IN THEIR

ACTIVITIES, AND NONE SEEM TO ANTICIPATE SITUATION WOULD GET WORSE.
NBC DAVID BURRINGTON AND MIKE MOSHER SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT CONCERNED.

THEIR NORMAL FEEDS TO THE SATELLITE WERE NOT BEING HAMPERED BY NEW
RESTRICTIONS OR UNUSUAL PROBLEMS. ABC DOREEN KAYS TOLD US SO FAR
AS SHE KNEW NONE OF THE TV NETWORKS HAD BEEN PRESSURED AT ALL. SHE
ADMITTED TO BEING "SLIGHTLY CONCERNED", BUT WAS TAKING A WAIT-AND-SEE
ATTITUDE. NEW YORK TIMES AND NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENTS TOLD EMBOFF THEY
NOT CONCERNED ABOUT EXPULSION OR OTHER HARASSMENT. SOME BELIEVE SADAT
WARNING DIRECTED AT EGYPTIANS WHO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THEM RATHER THAN
AT CORRESPONDENTS THEMSELVES.

2. AMONG NON-AMERICAN FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, DANIEL PRIOLLET OF AGENCE
FRANCE PRESSE AND BBC JOBBINS SAY THAY SEE NO SPECIAL REASON TO BE
DISTRUBED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BRITISH EMBASSY THAT BBC CORRESPONDENT
HAS BEEN INFORMED INDIRECTLY THAT HE NEED HAVE NO WORRY ABOUT HARAS-
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SMENT DESPITE PRESIDENT SINGLING OUT BBC FOR PUBLIC CRITICISM.

3. ONLY CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED SOME HARASSMENT ARE FROM
LE MONDE AND TORONTO DAILY MAIL AND GLOBE. FIRST WAS APPARENTLY MILD
GOE REBUKE DELIVERED VIA FRENCH EMBASSY TO CORRESPONDENT, NOT DIRECTLY.

SECOND IS AMERICAN, ALICE BRINTON, WHO HAS BEEN IN EGYPT FOR TWO

YEARS. SHE WAS RECENTLY CALLED IN TO MUBAITH (INTERNAL SECURITY) AND QUESTIONED IN POLITE MANNER. SHE WAS NOT DISTURBED AT THE TIME BUT ON REFLECTION, CONSIDERS IT HARASSMENT. SHE RESPONDED SHE HAD NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ANY EMBASSY OFFICERS. INTERROGATOR WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN FACT THAT SHE WAS BORN IN EGYPT AND BOTH HER GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS HAD RESIDED HERE (HER GRANDFATHER WAS LAST AMERICAN JUDGE OF MIXED COURT). THEY DID NOT ASK HER ANYTHING ABOUT CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIANS. THEY WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN HER SOURCES OF INCOME, BUT DID

NOT SEEM TO REALIZE THAT SHE WROTE FOR TORONTO NEWSPAPER OR WAS EVEN A JOURNALIST. THUS SHE WAS LEFT CONFUSED AS TO WHY SHE WAS CALLED IN.

(COMMENT: IT APPEARS FROM QUESTIONS ASKED MISS BRINTON THAT HER INTERROGATION MAY HAVE BEEN UNRELATED TO HER NEWSPAPER WORK BUT A RESULT OF HER FAMILY CONNECTIONS WITH EGYPT OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.)

4. WE HAVE ASKED ALL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO INFORM US SHOULD ANY HARASSMENT OF THEM OCCUR. EILTS

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